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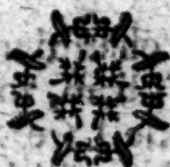
THE

GOSPORT TRAGEDY;

OR, THE

PERJUR'D

SHIP-CARPENTER.



T E W K E S B U R Y :

Printed and Sold by S. HARWARD; Sold also
at his Shops in GLOUCESTER and CHELTENHAM;
and by Miss HOLT, in UPTON; where may
be had all Sorts of New and Old Songs;
Penny Histories, &c. Wholesale and Retail.

The GOSPORT TRAGEDY, &c.


Tune, Peggy come over Sea.

IN Gosport of late there a damsel did dwell,
For wit and for beauty did many excel;
A young man did court her to be his dear,
And he by his trade was a ship-carpenter.

He said, Oh ! dear Molly, if you will agree,
And will consent to marry me;
My love you will ease me of sorrow and care,
If you will but wed a ship-carpenter.

With blushes more charming than roses in June,
She answer'd sweet William, to wed I'm too young.
Young men are so fickle I see very plain,
If a maid is not coy they will her disdain.

They flatter and swear their charms they adore,
When gain'd their consent, they care for no more;
The handsomest creature that ever was born,
When man has enjoy'd, he will hold her in scorn.

My charming Molly what makes you say so?
Thy beauty's the haven to which I would go.
So into that country I chance for to steer
There will cast anchor, and stay with my dear.

I ne'er shall be cloy'd with the charms of my
love,

My love is as true as the turtle-dove ;
And all that I crave is to wed with my dear,
And when thou art mine no danger I fear.

The life of a virgin, sweet William, I prize,
For marriage brings sorrow and trouble likewise ;
I am loath to venture, and therefore forbear,
For I will not wed with a ship-carpenter.

But yet all in vain, she his suit did deny,
Though he still did press her to make her comply ;
At length with his cunning he did her betray,
And to lewd desire he led her away.

But when with-child this young woman were,
The tidings she instantly sent to her dear ;
And by the good Heaven he swore to be true.
Saying, I will wed no other but you.

They passed on, 'till at length we hear,
The king want: sailors, to sea he repairs,
Which griev'd the damsel unto the heart.
To think she so soon with a lover must part.

She said my dear William 'ere thou go'st to sea,
Remember the vows that thou madest to me ;
But if you forsake me I never shall rest,
Oh ! why do you leave me with sorrow oppress ?

Then with kind embraces to her he did say,
I'll wed thee, dear Molly, 'ere I go away ;

And if to-morrow to me thou dost come,
A licence I'll buy, and it shall be done.

So with kind embraces he parted that night,
She went to meet him in the morning light;
He said dear charmer thou must go with me,
Before we are wedded a friend to see.

He led her through valles and groves so deep,
At length this maiden began for to weep;
Saying, William, I fancy thou lead'st me astray,
On purpose my innocent life to betray.

He said that is true, and none can you save,
For I all this night have been digging a grave;
Poer innocent soul, when she heard him say so,
Her eyes like a fountain began for to flow.

O perjur'd creature, the worst of all men,
Heavens reward thee when I'm dead and gone:
O pity the infant, and spare my life,
Let me go distress'd if I'm not thy wife.

Her hands white as lillies in sorrow she wrung,
Beseeching for mercy, saying, what have I done
To you my dear William, what makes you
severe?

For to murder one that loves you so dear.

He said here's no time disputing to stand,
And instantly taking the knife in his hand;
He pierc'd her body 'till the blood it did flow,
Then into the grave her body did throw.

He cover'd her body, then home he did run,
 Leaving none but birds her death to mourn;
 On board the Bedford he enter'd straitway,
 Which lay at Portsmouth out bound for the sea.

For carpenter's mate he was enter'd we hear,
 Fitted for his voyage away he did steer;
 But as in his cabbin one night he did lie,
 The voice of his sweetheart he heard to cry.

O perjur'd villain, awake now and hear,
 The voice of your love, that lov'd you so dear;
 This ship out of Portsmouth never shall go,
 'Till I am revenged for this overthrow.

She afterwards vanish'd with shrieks and cries,
 Flashes of lightning did dart from her eyes;
 Which put the ships crew into great fear,
 None saw the ghost, but the voice they did hear.

Charles Stuart, a man of courage so bold,
 One night was going into the hold:
 A beautiful creature to him did appear,
 And she in her arms had a daughter most fair.

The charms of this so glorious a face,
 Being merry in drink, he goes to embrace:
 But to his surprise it vanish'd away.
 He went to the captain without more delay,

And told him the story, which when he did
 hear,
 The captain said, some of my men I do fear

Have done some murder, and if it be so,
Our ship in great danger to the sea must go.

One at a time then his merry men all,
Into his cabbin he did strait call ;
And said, my lads the news I do hear
Doth much surprise me with sorrow and fear.

This ghost which appear'd in the dead of the
night,
Which all my seamen so sadly did fright ;
I fear has been wrong'd by some of my crew,
And therefore the person I fain would know.

Then William affrighted did tremble with fear,
And began by the powers above to swear ;
He nothing at all of the matter did know,
But as from the captain he went to go.

Unto his surprise his true love did see,
With that he immediately fell on his knee,
And said, here's my true love, where shall I run ?
O save me, or else I am surely undone.

Now he the murder confessed out of hand,
And said, before me my Molly doth stand,
Sweet injur'd ghost thy pardon I crave,
And soon I will seek thee in the silent grave.

No one but this wretch did see this sad sight,
Then raving distracted he dy'd in the night :
As soon as her parents these tidings did hear
They sought for the body of their daughter dear.

Near a place call'd Southampton in a valley deep
 The body was found, while many did weep
 At the fall of the damsel and her daughter dear,
 In Gosport church they buried her there.

I hope that this may be a warning to all,
 Young men how innocent maids they enthrall :
 Young men be constant and true to your love,
 Then a blessing indeed will attend you above.

A I N I S.



OLD SONGS,

Printed and Sold by S. HARWARD.

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| Children in the Wood | Leeds Tragedy; or, The |
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| Poor Robin's Dream | Berkshire Lady |
| Plymouth Tragedy; or, | Wandering-Shepherdes |
| Susan's Overthrow | Factor's Garland |
| Pretty Green Coat Boy | Broken Contract |
| 'Squire Vernon's Fox- | Bite upon Bite |
| Chace | Bloody Battle between a |
| Famous Flower of Serv- | Taylor and a Louse |
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| Wandering Prince of | The Ship Carpenter's |
| Troy | Love to the Merchants |
| Choice Pennyworth of | Daughter |
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